

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 NEA-10 /084 W

----- 108270

R 071400Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 24

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2277

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SEATO, TH

SUBJ: VISIT OF THAI FONMIN CHATCHI

REF: WELLINGTON 2259

1. SUMMARY. FONMIN CHATCHAI HAS TOLD NZ LEADERS THAT US-THAI RELATIONS ARE VERY GOOD, SEATO SHOULD BE PHASED OUT BUT SOME OF ITS ACTIVITIES CONTINUED AND MANILA PACT SHOULDN'T BE DISTURBED. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA'S ASIA DIVISION HEAD PROVIDED ACTING DCM WITH FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON VISITING THAI FONMIN CHATCHAI'S MEETINGS WITH PM ROWLING AND OTHER GNZ MINISTERS AS
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WELL AS OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON.

3. TO EACH OF HIS INTERLOCUTORS CHATCHAI EXPRESSED THANKS FOR ASSISTANCE NZ HAS PROVIDED THAILAND OVER THE YEARS AND INDICATED TYPE OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN WAS JUST WHAT WAS NEEDED.

4. CHATCHAI SAID BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN THE REGION AND WITH VIETNAM WAR OVER, SEATO SHOULD BE PHASED OUT. (HE RECALLED THAT AT MANILA THAIS HAD TO TALK HOSTS OUT OF CALL FOR IMMEDIATE END TO SEATO.) HE DREW DISTINCTION, HOWEVER, BETWEEN PHASE-OUT OF ORGANIZATION WHICH NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, AND RETENTION UNDER SOME OTHER AEGIS OF USEFUL WORK BEING DONE IN THREE SPECIFIC AREAS. ACTIVITIES OF ECONOMIC-SOCIAL AFFAIRS SECTION MIGHT BE PLACED UNDER ASEAN UMBRELLA; TROPICAL MEDICINE LABORATORY MIGHT BE RE-NAMED; AND WORK DONE IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY AREA SHOULD CONTINUE AND PERHAPS ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA.

5. AS FOR MANILA PACT, CHATCHAI SAID IT SHOULDN'T BE TOUCHED; IT WASN'T HURTING ANYONE; MOREOVER IT WAS HIS COUNTRY'S ONLY TIE WITH UNITED STATES. ACCOMPANYING THAI OFFICIALS OBSERVED SEPARATELY THAT TREATY COULD BE EXAMINED AFTER SEATO PHASED-OUT AND ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED FOR CONTINUATION CERTAIN OF ITS ACTIVITIES WHICH THEY ANTICIPATED WOULD REQUIRE ONE TO TWO YEARS.

6. CHATCHAI DESCRIBED THAI-US RELATIONS AS VERY GOOD AND CONTENTED NOTHING HAS CHANGED. RELATIONS HE SAID HAD IN FACT BEEN TOO CLOSE, CITING MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR, AND IT WAS IN INTEREST OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO STAND BACK SOMEWHAT. (AT RECEPTION AUGUST 5 CHATCHAI DESCRIBED AT LENGTH TO AMBASSADOR HIS LONG AND FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION WITH US MILITARY DURING HIS OWN MILITARY CAREER, INCLUDING HIS ATTENDANCE AT US MILITARY COURSE IN 1940'S WITH FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW AND GENERAL HAIG AND BIENNIAL REUNIONS OF THE CLASS IN US WHICH HE REGULARLY ATTENDS.)

7. CHATCHAI DEPICTED LAOS AND CAMBODIA AS OLD FRIENDS,
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ALMOST BROTHERS, AS HE HAD IN PRESS CLUB REMARKS (REFTEL). HE WANTS THEM STRONG ENOUGH TO BE BUFFERS BETWEEN THAILAND AND VIETNAMESE. HE SAID HE IS GOING TO HANOI AND SAIGON IN WEEK OR TWO AT WHICH TIME HE HOPES TO FORMALIZE RELATIONS WITHOUT WAITING FOR SOLUTION OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS AS STIPULATED BY VIETNAMESE.

8. REGARDING CHINA, CHATCHAI STATED IT WAS IMPORTANT

TO STABLIZE RELATIONS QUICKLY; CHINA NEEDS FRIENDS AT THE MOMENT AND IS WORRIED ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE. THAT'S WHY CHINA IS HOLDING ON TO PARACELS I.E. TO KEEP TABS ON SITUATION IN THE AREA.

9. EXPRESSING APPREHENSION OVER SUPER POWER RACE IN INDIAN OCEAN, CHATCHAI NOTED SOVIET FLEET EXPANSION THERE AND OBSERVED THAT HE DOESN'T CRITICIZE DIEGO GARCIA.

10. VISIT COMMUNIQUE NOT YET ISSUED. SELDEN

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NNN

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